



PUBLIC NOTICE

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**Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554**

Released: March 2, 2000

COMMENTS INVITED ON GTE COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION TO DISCONTINUE PROVISION OF DATA SERVICES

NSD File No. W-P-D-454

Section 214 Application

Applicant: GTE Communications Corporation

On March 1, 2000, GTE Communications Corporation ("Applicant") filed an application requesting authority under section 214(a) of the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. § 214(a), and section 63.71 of the Federal Communications Commission's ("Commission") rules, 47 C.F.R. § 63.71, to discontinue provision of data services (ATM, frame relay and private line) on March 30, 2000 in Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia.

Applicant states that it will discontinue providing interLATA domestic interexchange services consisting of resold data services such as ATM, frame relay and private line, originating or terminating in the state noted above. Discontinuation is necessary to permit Applicant's parent company, GTE Corporation, to merge with Bell Atlantic Corporation. Applicant states that upon closing of the merger, it will become an affiliate of Bell Atlantic and, accordingly, will become subject to statutory prohibitions restricting the provision of these services originating the noted states. The affected customers are national market business customers. Applicant states that such customers may subscribe to similar services provided by numerous other carriers, including all the major interexchange carriers. Additionally, Applicant states that it is aggressively negotiating with other carriers to provide for a seamless transition of the customers' data services.

Applicant's application appears to be complete. Applicant states that it has notified all affected customers of its proposed discontinuance, informing them of rights to file objections with the Commission. Applicant states that it will also mail another notice to each affected customer on or before March 11, 2000. Applicant has submitted a copy of its application to the Secretary of Defense, the Governor of each affected state, and the Public Service Commission of each affected state.

In accordance with 47 C.F.R. § 63.71(c), the application will be deemed to be automatically granted on the 31st day after the date of this public notice, without any Commission notification to the applicant, unless the Commission has notified the applicant that the grant will not be automatically effective. The FCC will normally authorize proposed discontinuances of service unless it is shown that customers or other end users would be unable to receive service or a reasonable substitute from another carrier, or that the public convenience and necessity is otherwise adversely affected.

Comments objecting to this application must be filed with the Commission by **March 24, 2000**. Such comments should refer to application file number **W-P-D-454**. Comments should include specific information about the impact of this proposed discontinuance on the commenter, including any inability to acquire reasonable substitute service. Comments should be sent to the Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, SW, Room TW-A325, Washington, DC 20554. Two copies of the comments should also be sent to the Network Services Division, 445 12th Street, SW, Room 6-A207, Washington, DC 20554. The application will be available for review and copying during regular business hours at the FCC Reference Center, Portals II, 445 12th Street, SW, Room CY-A257, Washington, DC 20554, (202) 418-0270.

For further information, contact Al McCloud, (202) 418-2499 (voice), amccloud@fcc.gov or Marty Schwimmer, (202) 418-2320 (voice), mschwimm@fcc.gov, of the Network Services Division, Common Carrier Bureau. The TTY number is (202) 418-0484.

-FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION-